

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
first and second inlets leading to first and second collection chambers,
respectively;
a funnel-shaped inlet port, said inlet port being movable relative to each of
first and second inlets such that the inlet port can be brought into liquid
communication with each first and second inlet in turn as required;
a filter means or binder retaining means associated with said inlet port;
means for breaking the surface tension of a fluid in the inlet port
comprising a web or like member so that said fluid leaves the inlet port and
enters the first or second inlet; adapted to receive a sample container comprising
a chamber adapted to receive
a paddle said instrument adapted for undergoing a reciprocating motion
and comprising magnetic or piezoelectric material, for mixing a sample in at least
one of the collection chambers.

20-31. (Cancelled)

32. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein said web or like member is situated across an outlet of said funnel.

33. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein said filter means or binder retaining means comprises a frit.

34. (New) An apparatus as a claimed in claim 19 wherein the paddle includes a liquid moving surface and means for supporting the paddle such that the paddle can undergo a reciprocating motion in the at least one of the collection chambers.

35. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 34 wherein the means for

supporting the paddle in or over the at least one of the collection chambers comprises a pair of arms extending from the liquid moving surface.

36. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein the paddle is T shaped.

37. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36 wherein the liquid moving surface of the paddle has an opening formed therein through which a light beam can pass.

38. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 37 wherein the paddle comprises a magnetic material.

39. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein at least one chamber comprises a base with sides extending therefrom to define the chamber, said sides comprising means which support the paddle.

40. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 39 wherein said means which support the paddle is a pair of slots in said sides.

41. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein at least one of the first and second collection chambers is an optical chamber.

42. (New) An apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the apparatus is a carousel or cassette.

43. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 19, wherein the apparatus is adapted to be received by an instrument which has means for causing the paddle to undergo a reciprocating motion in the at least one of the chambers.

44. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein which the paddle causing means is an electromagnetic means.

45. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said electromagnetic means is a solenoid.

46. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the

instrument is adapted for reading one or more samples and the apparatus is adapted for presenting the one or more samples to the instrument positioned in a reading position using two-phased recognition.

47. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 46, wherein the instrument includes a first switch which informs the instrument that the apparatus is within range and includes a second switch which confirms alignment.

48. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the instrument includes a first switch which is a micro-switch activated by an element on the apparatus and a second switch on the instrument which serves as a "fine tune" and is activated when the instrument reaches a predetermined location on the instrument.

49. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 48 wherein micro-switch is a board-mounted micro-switch and the element is a projecting member which depresses the micro-switch via a rocker arm assembly.

50. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 49 wherein the two members of the switch are a notch in the outermost wall of the apparatus, and a resilient member or arm of the instrument.

51. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 49, wherein the apparatus includes four switches located 90° apart.